

Black Walnut

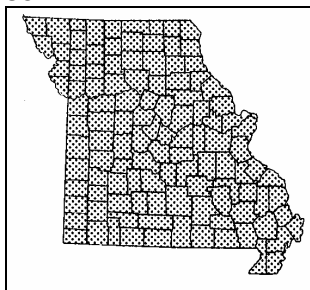
Juglans nigra, L.

Also called American black walnut and eastern black walnut, this tree occurs in every county of the state, although it is generally found as isolated trees or small stands, and not in dense stands. It is one of the best known and most valuable trees in our state. A fast growing tree on deep, well-drained, almost neutral soils, it can also be found on almost any site except where it is constantly wet. It may be mixed with ash, cherry, basswood, sugar maple, white oak, hickories or elm.

The sapwood is creamy white when fresh sawn, but can be steamed until it almost matches the heartwood. The heartwood varies considerably in color, from light gray brown to dark purplish brown. The bark is dark brown to black, thick, and fissured in young trees or with deep furrows and blocky or platy ridges on older trees. It is semi-ring porous and growth rings are distinct. This one species produces a greater variety of figure types than any other tree. The wood is moderately heavy, very strong for its weight and exceptionally stable when dry. It machines well and is an excellent carving wood which finishes beautifully with almost any finish, and is easily worked with hand tools. The wood is very durable.

Walnut is used for fine furniture, gunstocks, picture frames and trim, paneling, fine cabinets, gift items, musical instruments, veneer, turkey calls and countless other products. It is abundant, although the average size has been declining. Much high grade walnut veneer has been exported to Europe and Japan.

The black walnut nutmeats are delicious and are collected for sale annually in great volume. They are extracted and used in candy, cookies and ice cream, while the shell of the nut is graded into different sizes and sold as a filler and a cleaning and polishing agent. The wood is excellent for home workshop use.



Massengale

